

Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
155 East 44th Street
New York 17 N. Y.

14 November 1962

NO.: 513

Your Excellency,

Upon the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honour to convey to you the following message:

"His Excellency U Phant,
Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dear Secretary-General:

As we were able to tell you during the conversations we had with you in Cuba, we truly appreciate your sincere and noble efforts to spare humanity the catastrophic risks of a nuclear war.

While acknowledging receipt of and replying now to your confidential letter of 12 November 1962, we should like to reiterate our recognition of the honest and persistent action you have undertaken and are still pursuing on behalf of world peace.

We, too, are equally concerned to spare humanity the horrors of a nuclear conflagration and to safeguard the interests of world peace, although, as you rightly say, not at any price, and never at the expense of the independence and sovereignty of Cuba.

It follows then that we are fully convinced that only a peace with dignity can disperse the storm clouds still darkening the international horizon.

The responsibility for bringing the world to the edge of destruction falls entirely upon the Government of the United States.

We have examined and discussed with the closest attention your proposal concerning the verification by an informal group of Ambassadors accredited in our country of the removal of the strategic defensive weapons, the property of the

Government of the USSR, independently of the fact that these weapons have already been withdrawn by decision of the Soviet Government. We maintain an inflexible opposition to any type of inspection or verification in our territory which implies our acceptance of the slightest impairment of the inalienable right which is that of the Government and the people of Cuba to take the sovereign decision regarding any matter falling within their internal jurisdiction, and above all in matters affecting the national defence against aggression either direct or indirect by a foreign Power. We are not unaware that this variation of yours on the original proposal is inspired by a praiseworthy desire to ensure world peace and to eliminate the dangers centering on Cuba.

We consider, however, that any international restriction ^{of} ~~in~~ our rights ~~will~~ not merely entail an abdication of principles which no self-respecting State can renounce, but ~~will~~ in fact serve to weaken rather than to strengthen the praiseworthy action initiated by you.

On the other hand, we have no objection to the suggestion made by you that the countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe should initiate a good offices ^{mission} ~~mission~~ with a view to finding a permanent solution to the situation which has arisen, including, however, the discussion of the five points which the revolutionary Government and the people of Cuba consider the minimum guarantees for the preservation of the self-determination, independence and sovereignty of our country. Any proposal from you, within this context, and under the aegis of the United Nations, would meet with our sympathetic consideration.

Allow me to stress that although Cuba has never been and will never be an obstacle to peace, ^{but is} ~~but is~~ ~~on no account~~ ^{nevertheless} determined to co-operate in strengthening and consolidating it, nevertheless we consider unacceptable any formula which violates the independence and sovereignty of Cuba and places upon peace a price such that it is likely to become the later cause of the war we are trying to prevent.

We should like, finally, to point out that, despite the removal of the strategic defence weapons, the illegal blockade of Cuba by the Government of the United States has continued, as also the violation of our air space by United States aircraft and provocations/^{from}~~by~~ the Guantánamo Naval Base.

Believe, Sir, our appreciation of your goodwill and best intentions,

Fidel CASTRO RUZ
Prime Minister of the
Revolutionary Government"

I take this opportunity of repeating to you, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Carlos M. LECHUGA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Cuba